

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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Part I - ARMOUR

The T44 Tank Specifications

1. (a) Armour - 120-mm gun and DPT tank machine gun.
- (b) Engine - development of aero engine.
- (c) Speed - on country roads 40 kilometres per hour;
on metal roads 60 to 70 kilometres per hour.
- (d) Range - 180 kilometres; angle of climb, 35 degrees.
- (e) Clearance - 20 centimetres.
- (f) Gun Range - direct fire, 1,800 metres.
- (g) Armour Penetration - 160 millimetres.
- (h) Ammunition Carried - 60 shells, 4,800 MG rounds.
- (i) Dead Ground - 25 degrees.
- (j) Crew - four men; driver, gunner/radio operator, turret gunner,
tank commander.
- (k) Distance of Radio Communications - 25 kilometres (Wireless set RBM?).
- (l) Height - up to 3 metres;
Width - 2.40 metres.
- (m) Observation Slits - 3 (periscope in turret for commander).
- (n) Fording Depth - 35 centimetres.
- (o) Fuel Reserve - 200 litres of petrol, 40 litres of oil.
- (p) There is an automatic fire extinguisher.
- (q) The engine is in the rear.

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(NOTE: [REDACTED])

Approximately the same data applies to the

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T-34 tank).

Heavy Tanks

2. Heavy tanks are included in the establishment of the Heavy Tank/SU Regiment in which are also found heavy SUs - that is, the SU-152 and the SU-100.

3. Both SUs and tanks are used in the defensive battle as static weapons (NEPODVIZHNIYE OGNEVIYE TOCHKI) and may be dug into the ground. They carry out gunner tasks in conjunction with the artillery. In the offensive battle they are used at divisional level and above, but in exceptional circumstances they may be used to carry out the task of a regiment.

4. SUs are used for the support of tanks in battle and for combating the anti-tank artillery of the enemy. They are also used for the destruction of armoured targets, pillboxes, and machine gun posts (DOTs and DZOTs).

Medium Tanks

5. Medium tanks are used for assault with the infantry, and for the destruction of the enemy firing positions; they are the basic striking power in battle. They can carry out independent tasks under the artillery fire of the enemy defence or in tank raids. They destroy rear areas, headquarters, and communications. The numbers of the tanks which the infantry must follow are given in the commander's orders for the attack. During the attack, the infantry must not get separated from the tanks.

SU 76

6. The light SU, the SU 76, is used as regimental artillery and also for the support of medium tanks in battle, destroying armoured targets and anti-tank artillery of the enemy.

Armoured Car - BA 67

7. The armoured car, BA 67, is used by liaison officers and also for reconnaissance purposes.

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APCs

8. APCs are used for dumping of ammunition on the battlefield and for transporting personnel, including repair crews. They may carry out liaison tasks on the battle field. They are highly mobile with a good cross-country performance.

Part II - THE OFFENSIVE BATTLE

1. There are three types of offensive battle:-
 - (a) Attack against an enemy who has hastily adopted defensive positions.
 - (b) The encounter battle.
 - (c) Attack against an enemy in prepared positions.
2. The aims of the attack are:-
 - (a) The annihilation of enemy troops, equipment, and fire positions.
 - (b) The seizure of favourable tactical ground.
 - (c) The seizure or destruction of strong points, headquarters, and other targets.
 - (d) The seizure of the ground to secure the advance in the course of battle.
3. Types of attack are:-
 - (a) Break-through.
 - (b) Envelopment.
 - (c) Encirclement.

The Width of the Front of the Attack

4. A company attacks in line with sections, section weapons, and support weapons in the same formation. Up to and in each company are found support weapons, heavy machine guns - in fact, the weapons at the disposal of the battalion.

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5! With the introduction of atomic weapons the frontage for the attack has increased. The interval between soldiers is now eight to ten metres in extended line and from this may be determined the frontage of an attacking sub-unit.

6. With the increase in the frontage of the attack, the depth of the formation was correspondingly increased.

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The Assault

7. The sections and companies occupy the jumping-off position for the attack (ISKHODNAYA POZITSIYA DLYA ATAKI). The jumping-off position may be up to 100 metres from the enemy. When the company attacks the objective it does not necessarily attack the first trench of the enemy position. This is covered by the artillery preparation, and in the platoons and companies, groups are designated for mopping-up the trenches.

8. Battalions, regiments, and divisions are given the direction of the attack and the artillery fire is correspondingly directed on targets along this line of advance.

9. Tanks and SUs attack with the infantry (except in the case of tank raids and break-throughs). During the break-through the infantry may be mounted on the tanks. In such cases, SUs have 2nd echelon roles, such as artillery tasks and flank protection.

10. Target indication from infantry to tanks and vice-versa is covered in the orders for the attack. It may be done with rockets or with tracer rounds. The calling-down and stopping of artillery fire is requested by the same means and also by radio.

11. The forcing of gaps in the defensive obstacles may be carried out by tanks, artillery, engineer sub-units, and by the attacking infantry themselves.

12. The special type of battle called "armed reconnaissance" (RAZVEDKA BOYEM) should not be confused with other types of battle. It is carried out by sub-units up to company strength with the aim of establishing the line of the enemy front and discovering his fire positions and disposition of his guns. Armed reconnaissance is carried out at regimental or divisional level.

13. In the new manual it is laid down that the basic type of battle is the offensive. Defence and all other types of battle are purely preparation for going into the attack.

Artillery in the Attack

14. The artillery provides the basic fire power. Artillery fire has the advantages of fluidity, surprise, concentration, and long-range action.

15. The following types of fire are used:-

- (a) Defensive fire.
- (b) Static and moving barrages.
- (c) Harassing fire.
- (d) Neutralising fire.
- (e) Fire for destruction.
- (f) Zonal fire.

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16. Anti-tank artillery fights the battle with tanks and armoured targets of the enemy. It is also used for the suppression or destruction of pillboxes and machine gun positions. The most effective fire is direct fire at the range of 1,500 metres.

17. Artillery tasks are given by the commanders to whom the artillery is allotted. The artillery commander controls the preparation and allotment of artillery support.

18. The task of the sub-unit which the artillery is supporting, or to which it is attached, determines the depth of the artillery fire.

19. Defensive fire is zonal, that is, along the line of advance to break-up counter attacks.

20. Neutralising and destructive fire are carried out by all types of artillery on fire positions, trenches, machine gun nests, and so on.

21. Harassing fire or zonal fire are carried out on prepared artillery data with the aim of demoralising the enemy.

22. The mortar sub-units perform similar roles with the exception of anti-tank tasks. Mortar fire is especially valuable because the maximum angle of fire can be attained only by mortars.

Part III - DEFENCE

1. Defence is a type of warfare which is carried out:-

- (a) To destroy superior enemy forces.
- (b) To hold specially important sectors or lines of advance.
- (c) To prepare for, and go over to the offensive.

2. Commanders at all levels must, in the organisation of the defence:-

- (a) Organise observation, warning systems, and communications.
- (b) Take steps to ensure adequate warning of atomic attack.

3. The construction of trenches, all types of cover, fire positions, and defences is carried out not only by specialised troops but by every sub-unit.

4. Priorities in occupation of the defensive positions are:-

- (a) The planning, tracing, and marking of positions.
- (b) Digging of trenches for firing from the lying, kneeling, and standing positions in that order; then these positions are joined up to make trenches.

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(NOTE: When in direct contact with the enemy the actions described in sub-para (a) are not carried out.)

5. In digging positions engineer troops are used and they work with bulldozers, trench diggers, and other machines. Pillboxes and machine gun posts are built by engineer troops.

6. A defensive system consists of:-

- (a) First, second, and third trenches of the first position occupied by first echelon battalions.
- (b) First, second, and third trenches of the second position occupied by regimental reserves, regimental artillery, and anti-tank weapons. Between the first and second positions may be found tanks and SUs in their jumping-off position (ISKHODNYE POLOZHENIYE).
- (c) The first, second, and third trenches of the third position, occupied by the divisional artillery, divisional reserves, and headquarters and the artillery of the commander-in-chief's reserve.

7. The first, second, and third trenches included:-

- (a) Rifle positions.
- (b) Machine gun nests.
- (c) Positions for attached and supporting weapons.
- (d) Enfiladed fire positions.
- (e) Communication trenches to the rear.
- (f) Battalion medical point.
- (g) The battalion veterinary point.
- (h) Observation posts of the battalion commander and artillery commander.

8. Defences of all kinds may be found in the front of the first trenches and in between trenches. For the most part these are minefields, consisting of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines. Also used are barbed wire fences, hidden obstacles, and "Bruno" spirals (concertina wire). Some types of mines used are POMZ 2, PTM 45, and PM 44 (all anti-personnel mines).

9. If the ground permits, escarpments and counter escarpments are constructed.

10. Among the forward defences, may be deployed machine guns for short range surprise fire (KINZHALNYE PULEMETY). In the small arms fire system flanking and criss-cross fire are obligatory.

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Part IV - AIR FORCES

1. Air forces by nature of their long range of activity are not dependent upon roads and therefore the activities of air forces are not restricted by the ground. Air forces are divided into the following categories:-

(a) Bombers and long-range bombers.

(b) Fighters.

(c) Ground attack aircraft.

(d) Reconnaissance aircraft.

(e) Liaison aircraft.

(f) Transport aircraft.

(g) Gliders.

(h) Artillery spotters.

2. Aircraft are used for:-

(a) Destruction of and damage to enemy rear areas.

(b) Destruction of communications.

(c) Destruction of headquarters, bridges, etc.

3. Bombers and ground attack aircraft may assist in the artillery preparation.

4. Jet and piston engined aircraft and also helicopters are used.

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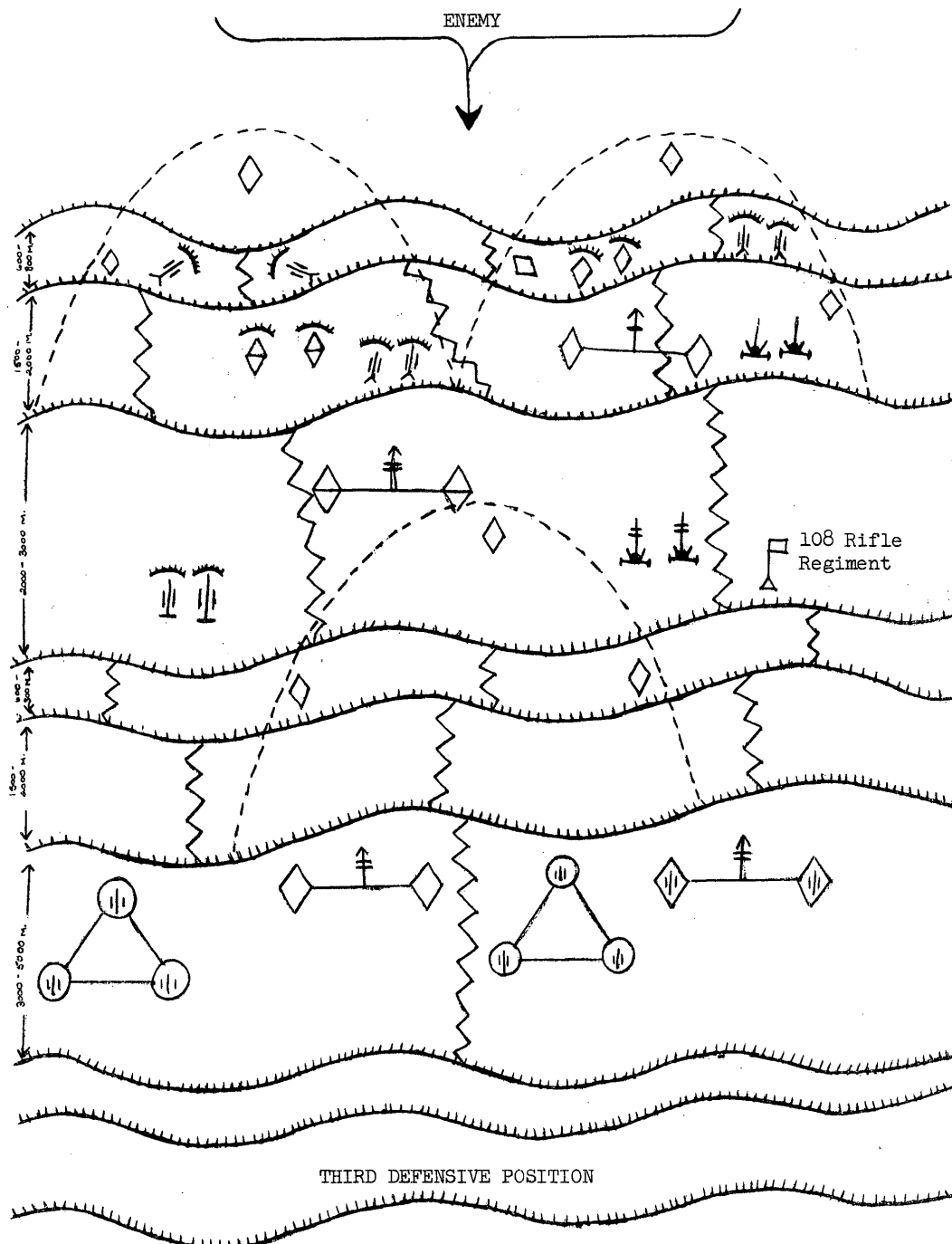
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THE RIFLE REGIMENT IN DEFENCE
(1st and 2nd Defensive Positions)



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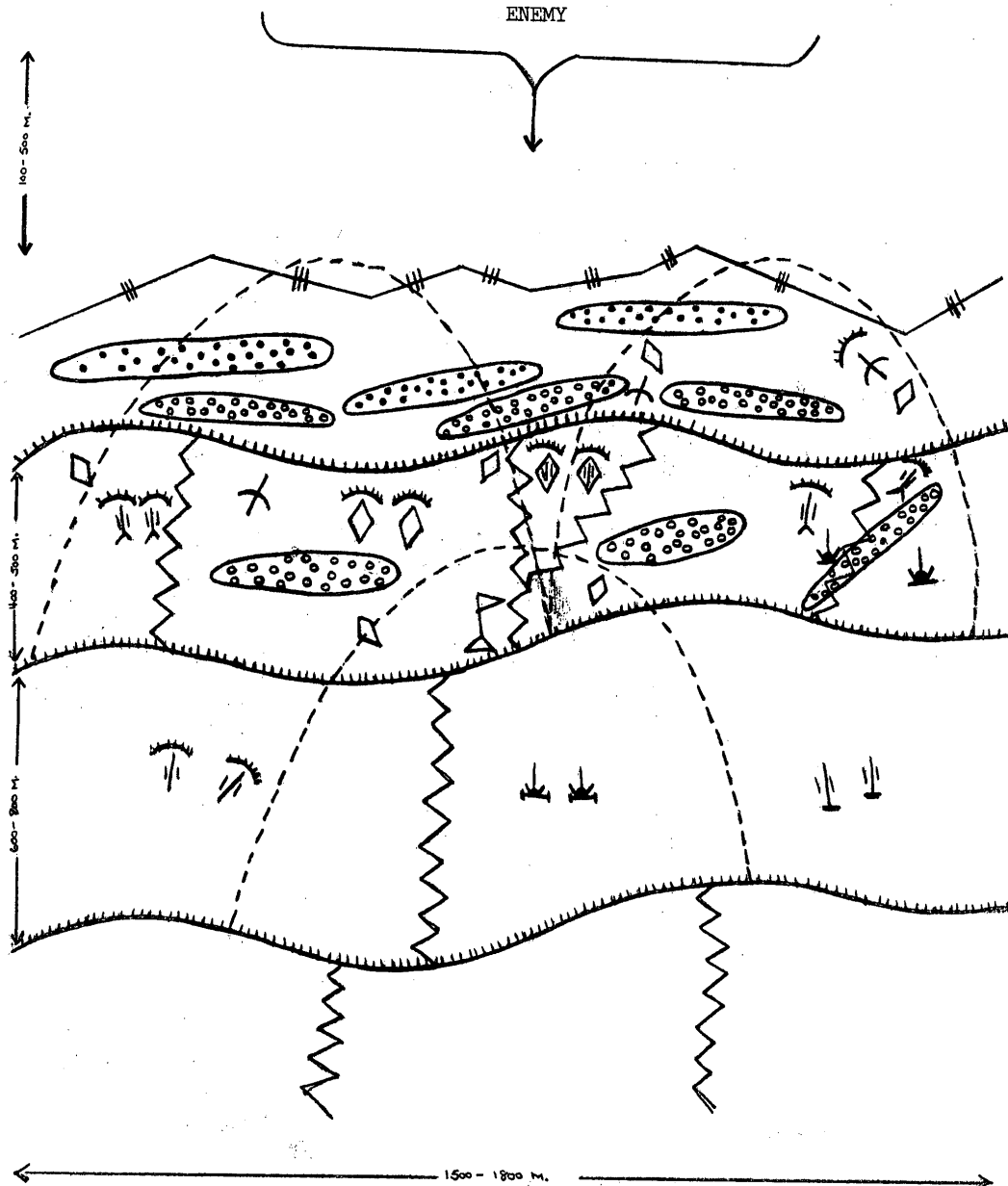
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THE RIFLE BATTALION IN DEFENCE

ENEMY



Note:- Sketch "R" is on the same subject.

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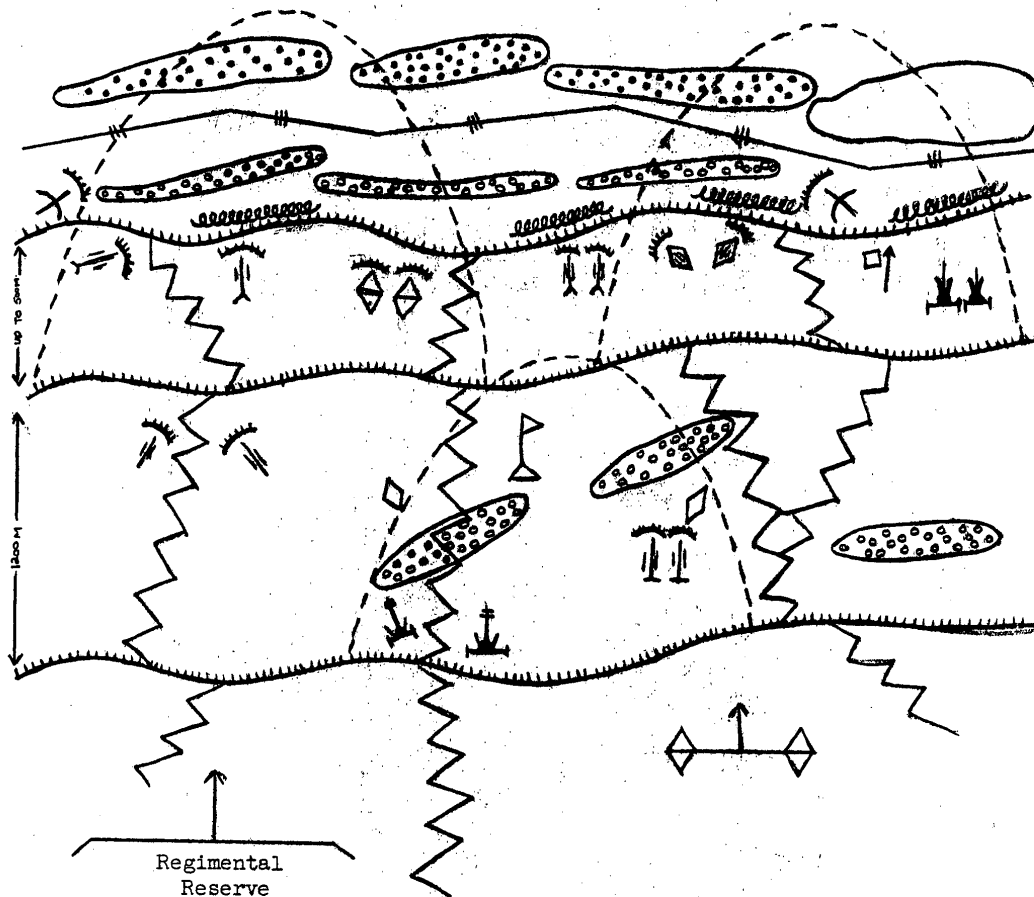
RIFLE BATTALION

FIRST DEFENSIVE POSITION

ENEMY

♂ outpost
section

△ security
detachment



Note:- Sketch "Q" is on the same subject.

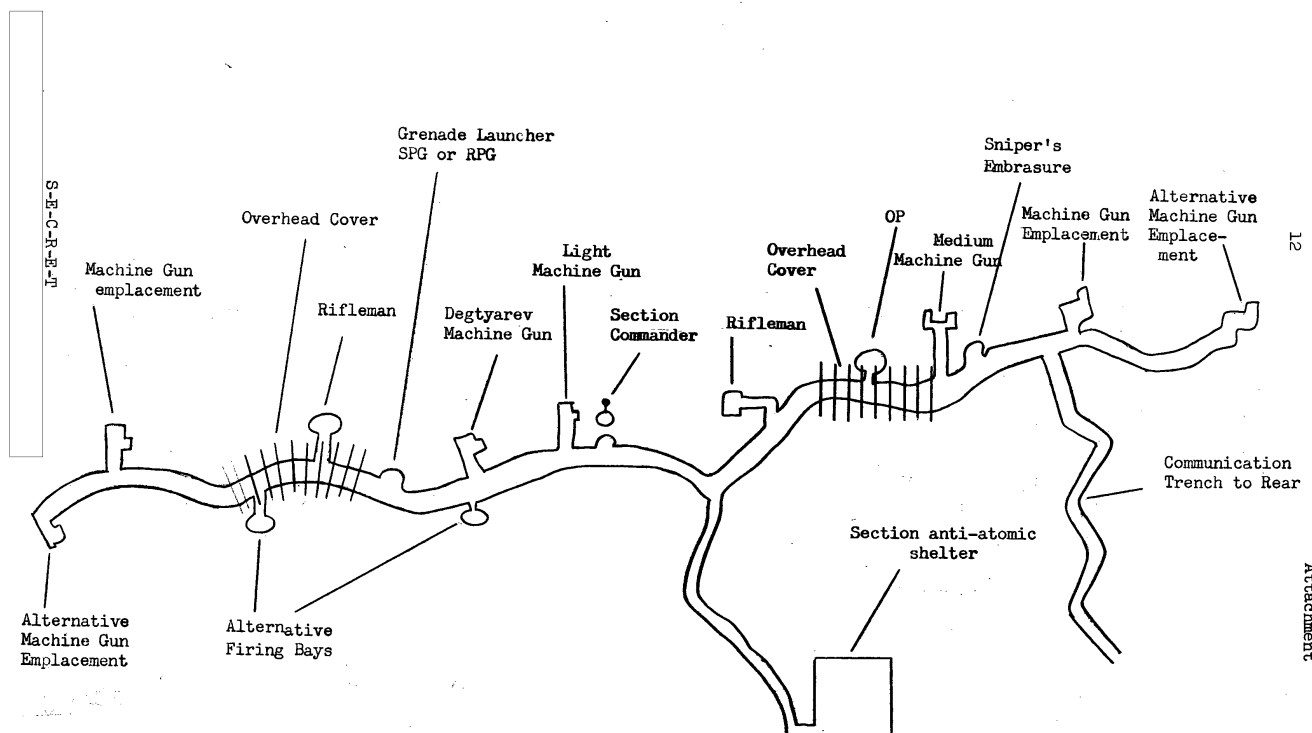
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TIME REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION

OF SECTION POSITION - 30 MAN HOURS.



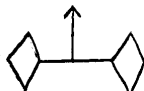
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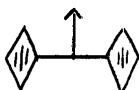
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CONVENTIONAL SIGNSLine of trenches
and communication
trenches

Tank unit deployed



Shelters



SU gun unit deployed



Covered trench



Firing position or trench

Note:- Small horizontal strokes
on vertical lines indicate size
of formation.

One bar = platoon

Two bars = company

Three bars = battalion



Concertina wire



Security detachment



Antipersonnel minefield



Organic battalion command post



Antitank minefield



Regimental command post



Small calibre anti-tank gun



Heavy machine gun



Outpost section



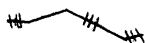
107-mm gun



Unit or sub-unit area



76-mm gun



Multiple wire obstacle



120-mm mortar



82-mm mortar



Tank



Machine gun



SU Gun



Medium tank



Section commander

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